

Serial No. 09/731,178
Applicants: Goedeke et al.
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REMARKS

In the above reference office action, the claims have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) under Snell. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The claims have been amended to more clearly indicate that the system receives data from the implanted device indicative of a current state of the implanted device. Based on this data, the system automatically selects a limited set of voice commands that are available. Thus, whatever status the implanted device is in, the care giver will have the ability to utilize the relevant set of voice commands.

Snell does not provide any such teaching or suggestion. The Brant et al. reference, which was not previously relied on, simply illustrates user selectable drop-down menus. Thus, even if combined with Snell, the present claims are not taught.

While the claims have been amended, the amendments merely clarify that which was inherently in the original claims and was previously argued. Thus, the amendments do not serve to narrow the claims and furthermore do not raise new issues that would preclude consideration after having received a final rejection.

As the application is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests notice of the same. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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